

Mr. Wiggam and Committee Members,

April 5, 2022

Greetings from Claridon Township in Geauga County. My name is Jonathan Tiber. I am a Claridon Township Trustee and Chairperson of the Geauga County Public Health Advisory Council.

HB 463 is good legislation. My intention is not to share why it's good legislation but, to offer a friendly amendment to HB 463. **The amendment is to keep Health District Advisory Councils intact.**

The reason; Geauga County has 16 townships. Trustees in these townships have a much closer relationship with their residents than does the County Commissioners. Township Trustees are more accessible than County Commissioners. This offers a truer democratic benefit for residents. It allows for easier access to the ears of the Advisory Council rather than County Commissioners. It is a clearer and more certain avenue to obtain the true will of the people.

My testimony of proof; The Geauga County Public Health Advisory Council had our annual meeting to appoint a new Health Board Member on March 23, 2022. There were 6 candidates. The Advisory Council had a five (5) member screening committee who interviewed each candidate two (2) weeks prior to the March 23 Annual Council meeting. The screening committee recommend a candidate to the whole council on March 23. That two week period of time, between the interviews and the Health Board appointment, was quite telling. Trustees from all over the county as well as the County Commission received many calls, emails and texts. Overwhelmingly, those correspondences were in support of a single, particular candidate. This candidate was NOT the recommended candidate of the screening committee.

Further, the two (2) week period of time allowed for trustees to bring the matter before their respective township board of trustees. So, how did the vote go?

Because of the amount of support by residents, the Advisory Council voted overwhelmingly for the candidate heavily supported by residents. This resident was NOT the screening committee's recommended candidate. In fact, three (3) out of the five (5) screening committee members voted AGAINST their own recommendation, including me. This is due to the fact that we, the Township Trustees, were easily accessible allowing us to obtain the will of the people. The winning candidate received 11 of the 18 votes. As further proof that keeping Health District Advisory Councils intact, the County Commissioner voted for another candidate altogether. This is certainly his right however, it is further proof that the commission either did not receive the amount of correspondences as the trustees did, received them but ignored them or, is simply is out of touch with the residents.

The fact of the matter is; Health District Advisory Councils offer a truer, more certain avenue in obtaining the will of the people because they are more accessible to the people.

As a side note; Trustees are public servants however, most are compensated for their work in office. True servitude comes from serving on Councils like these as well as other councils and boards. The opportunity to serve the community beyond trusteeship should not be stripped from them. As a matter of fact, County Commissioners have plenty of appointment authority as it is. Also, there are only three (3) of them. There are many more Advisory Council members who represent each community within our county more specifically.

Thank you for your consideration to amend HB 463 and the opportunity to offer testimony.

Jonathan Tiber  
Claridon Township Trustee  
Geauga Public Health Advisor Council Chairperson